

Ilchester Elementary School PTA Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2016

In attendance: Beth Benoit, PTA president; Jen Cleckner, 3rd grade teacher; Terri Jones; Amy LoPresti, treasurer; Anne Mager; Kelly Mansour, 3rd grade teacher; Samantha Marino, 3rd grade teacher; Ashlei Pinkham; Danielle Rao; Tonya Sigalas; Dr. Joy Smith, IES principal; Heather Tom; and Sunny Zhao, PTACHC delegate.

Call to Order: Beth Benoit called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming, and each person in attendance introduced herself.

Handouts/Documents available

--**November 2016 Financial Highlights and Profit & Loss Budget Performance**

--**PTACHC Report** (please see attached)

Principal's Report: Dr. Smith reported the following:

Some 'good news' items:

--Mrs. Perraud had a baby girl on Sunday morning, December 11. Mom and baby are doing well and were expected to go home on the 12th.

--Ms. Lohmeyer came to school on the 12th after having had knee surgery.

--Since Dr. Smith has seen an amazing amount of volunteer support so far this school year, she asked Terry Cleveland to check on the number of volunteers who were in the building during the first marking period. Over 500 volunteers have been in the building.

--The custodial team received a grade of A on an unannounced inspection.

In another important note:

- School start and dismissal times—Dr. Smith encourages everyone to attend the sessions that HCPSS is offering. The school system is providing information and seeking input about the start and dismissal times that are being considered to begin as early as the 2017-18 school year. The Board will consider the topic in January. Via email, Dr. Smith has sent out a link to an on-line survey, and she encourages PTA members to spread the word about the opportunities to voice our input. **Update as of January 17**—According to the HCPSS website, a public hearing is scheduled for February 7 at 7:00 PM, and pre-registration to participate opens on January 24. The BOE is scheduled for Action on February 23 during the 4:00 PM meeting. The BOE will also accept written testimony by email to boe@hcpss.org until 4:30 PM on February 21. Information about school start and dismissal times is available on the home page of the school website under Trending Topics.

President's Report: Beth reported the following:

Fundraising chairperson needed— A volunteer is needed who can start looking into fundraising options for as early as this spring and the next school year. For this school year, we may need to rework the budget if we do not have fundraising added to what is already planned. We also need to determine how

we're going to bring in funds during the next school year. We will not be able to have Boosterthon as a fundraiser next year. One person who might get involved with fundraising has contacted Beth.

Other Volunteer Opportunities—The president position will be open for next year. Committee positions that are currently open are Moms and Dads on Campus and a program to encourage dads to get involved.

School Directory—For those who have requested a copy of the school directory, Andrea Ulrich will start making copies soon. A master copy will be given to Terry Cleveland in the front office.

Acknowledgements—Thank you to everyone who helped. Candy for the Troops collected 315 pounds of candy – thanks to the Fremont-Smith and Young families for delivering it to the USO. Thank you to everyone involved in the conference night dinner for staff – Melissa Daniels, Ben Daniels, Becky Wibberley and Krista Barron. Thank you to Terri Jones for her work on Box Tops and the Crayola ColorCycle Program.

Artist in Residence—The artist-in-residence has been working on a fused glass project with 5th graders and has been working with kindergartners. By choice of the artist, the work was extended a few days with no additional cost to us. It is now finished. Kelly Green is looking into a way to do an unveiling of the work completed. Thank you to Kelly for her work.

Restaurant Night—From a Cheeburger-Cheeburger event, almost \$1,453.92 was taken in, which we estimate will be a profit of \$290.78.

Talent show—A flier has been approved and will go out after Winter Break. Fliers will be due back by Fri., Jan. 13. Auditions for grades K-2 are scheduled for Wed., Jan. 25 after school. Auditions for 3-5 will be Thurs., Jan. 26 after school. Performances are planned for Thurs., Feb. 9 and Thurs., Feb. 16—both at 6:30 PM. The talent show is a showcase and not a competition. Auditions are done primarily to ensure that performances are school-appropriate.

Treasurer's Update

Amy LoPresti distributed and discussed November 2016 Financial Highlights with Profit & Loss Budget Performance attached.

The checking account balance as of 11/30/16 was \$84,617.24, and the savings account balance was \$1,175.14.

Amy reminded everyone that the numbers on the report are a snapshot of a single month.

During discussion, Amy noted that in the December report we'll see approximately \$30,000 in expenses that will include payment to Boosterthon. Also, in order to meet this year's budget goals, we need to bring in approximately \$12,000 more; but, at this time, we can anticipate approximately \$8,000, which means there is a gap of approximately \$4,000.

A reminder to teachers that there is \$85 available for each teacher. When the money is spent, please save the receipt and submit it to the PTA.

One of the differences in this year's budget compared to last year is that, last year, there were disparities in the amounts of money given to different grade levels, with 5th grade noted as the exception. Those disparities have been leveled off.

In recent years, money in reserve has helped when budget goals weren't met.

Dr. Smith commented that it sounds like we need to reevaluate the sustainability of some of the programs that are in the budget.

Additional suggestions made by parents during discussion is that teachers be encouraged to send out more emails to parents to let them know how the money they have donated through the PTA is being used and what programs are going well. Staff members suggested more information and clarity about what funds are available for staff. Amy reminded them of some of the resources available with that information.

PTACHC Delegate's Report:

Sunny Zhao presented a report from the PTACHC meeting held on December 5 at the Homewood School. Please see report attached.

In regard to school start and dismissal times, Sunny indicated that PTACHC would be voting on their position at the next meeting, and delegates were asked to seek input from their PTA's prior to the meeting.

During discussion, questions and concerns including current early waking times for high school students and impact on families' after-care expenses were discussed. At the conclusion of discussion, it was determined that Sunny should report back that we would like more information before taking a position.

Committee Report

Square 1 Art—Danielle Rao reported that we sold about \$7,700 worth of products, and the PTA gets about 1/3 of the money collected, so we're expecting approximately \$2,500. The program is set up so that we get more of a percentage if we reach a certain level of participation.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM with a wish for everyone to have happy holidays.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the IES PTA is scheduled for Thursday, January 19 beginning at 7:00 PM in the school's media center.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Tom
Secretary

Notes from 2016-2017 PTAC Meeting #4 (December 5, 2016, Homewood School)

ISSUES

- Policy 8200: Digital Education
 - This is a new policy to specify criteria for the HCPSS for digital education courses.
 - If a kid can't go to school, he can still get the education through the on-line courses.
 - A student may enroll in up to 2 full-credit digital education courses per single school year.
 - Non-HCPSS students may enroll in the online courses and pay certain fee.
 - Board of education will take action to adopt this revised policy on 1/12/17. The policy will be effective 7/1/17.

- Changes to Science Curriculum
 - A presentation was given by HCPSS coordinators of science about Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
 - NGSS were state based and not part of the Common Core.
 - Less memorization of facts and terminology. More practice and problem solving.
 - Parents had concerns about the time spent more on activities instead of the basic concepts.

- School Start Times Proposal
 - School Start and Dismissal Times (SSDT) committee examined school start and dismissal times since September 2013. Now is the phase III and four models were proposed.
 - In the four models, no middle or high school begins before 8:15am. Elementary schools have the earliest start times ranging from 7:30am-8:15am. All schools have a 6 hour and 45 minute student day, which is an increase of 15 minutes for elementary schools.
 - The time change will affect ES kids' family: Less sleep time, longer time in school, increased after school expense, older sibling can't babysit the younger ones.
 - Two more community forums are scheduled on Dec 14th and Dec 21st. Public hearing will be on Feb 7th and BOE action will be on Feb 23rd.
 - PTAC will vote in January meeting for PTA's position on this issue.